

**ENSURING THAT A DATABASE AND ITS DESCRIPTION ARE
SYNCHRONIZED**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of ensuring that an IMS database and its description are
synchronized. A copy of the description used to load the database is stored and
maintained within said database. Before the database is accessed, a copy of the
description is compared with another copy of the description stored in a data
management block. A determination is then made as to whether the copy of the
10 description in the database and the copy of the description in the data management
block are synchronized. Responsive action, such as alerting the user to a problem
with the description, may occur if the database descriptions are not synchronized.